

In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown in accordance with the mandatory amendment format.

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a server computer;

a first transmission medium coupled to the server computer; and

a client computer, coupled to the first transmission medium, ~~the client computer~~

including:

a log to store billing entries; and

a security component having exclusive access to the log to enter the billing entries into the log and to secure the log ~~that has exclusive access to a log stored at the client computer.~~

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

a second transmission medium coupled to the client computer; and

a source device coupled to the second transmission medium.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the client computer further comprises:

a playback component that transmits a log entry to the security component upon receiving a request to play content received from the source device via the second transmission medium; and

a billing component that transmits the log to the server computer via the first transmission medium.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the billing component transmits the log to the server computer upon receiving a request from the server computer.

5. (Original) The system of claim 3 wherein the billing component transmits the log to the server computer at predetermined time intervals.
6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the client computer is a personal computer.
7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the client computer is a set top appliance.
8. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the server computer comprises:
a billing component that receives the log from the client computer via the first transmission medium;
a second security component that decrypts and verifies the integrity of the log;
and
a database that stores the log.
9. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the first transmission medium comprises a secure back channel that secures transmissions between the server computer and the client computer and the second transmission medium is a broadcast channel.
10. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the second transmission medium comprises an internal network connection.
11. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the second transmission medium comprises a satellite transmission.
12. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
generating a billing record at a computer system;
receiving the billing record at a security component within the computer system;
the security component inserting the billing record into a log; and

encrypting the log.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising receiving a request at the computer system to retrieve media content that is to be played at the computer system.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising writing the log to a data storage device within the computer system.

15. (Original) A software product having one or more recordable media having stored thereon executable instructions which, when executed by a processing device, causes the processing device to:

generate a billing record at a computer system;

receive the billing record at a security component within the computer system;

insert the billing record into a log; and

encrypt the log.

16. (Original) The software product of claim 15 further comprising causing the processing device to receive a request at the computer system to retrieve media content that is to be played at the computer system.

17. (Original) The software product of claim 15 further comprising causing the processing device to write the log to a data storage device within the computer system.

18. (Original) A method comprising:

receiving an encrypted billing log at a server computer from a client computer via a secure back channel;

decrypting the billing log at a security component within the server computer; and

storing the billing log at a database.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising testing the validity of the billing log.
20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein testing the validity of the billing log comprises:
- validating a digital signature in order to authenticate the billing log; and
 - comparing a first token value stored in the database with a second token value included with the billing log received over the secure back channel.
21. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising:
- generating a third token value;
 - generating a second billing log at the server computer that includes the third token value; and
 - transmitting the second billing log and the third token value to the client computer via the secure back channel.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21 further comprising:
- signing the second billing log with a second digital signature; and
 - encrypting the second billing log prior to transmitting the second billing log to the client computer.
23. (Original) A software product having one or more recordable media having stored thereon executable instructions which, when executed by a processing device, causes the processing device to:
- receive an encrypted billing log at a server computer from a client computer via a secure back channel;
 - decrypt the billing log at a security component within the server computer; and
 - store the billing log at a database.

24. (Original) The software product of claim 23 further comprising causing the processing device to test the validity of the billing log.

25. (Original) The software product of claim 24 wherein causing the processing device to test the validity of the billing log further causes the processing device to:

validate a digital signature in order to authenticate the billing log; and
compare a first token value stored in the database with a second token value included with the billing log received over the secure back channel.

26. (Original) The software product of claim 25 further comprising causing the processing device to:

generate a third token value;
generate a second billing log at the server computer that includes the third token value; and
transmit the second billing log and the third token value to the client computer via the secure back channel.

27. (Original) The software product of claim 25 further comprising causing the processing device to:

sign the second billing log with a second digital signature; and
encrypt the second billing log prior to transmitting the second billing log to the client computer.